



The earliest building of the St. Thomas' College, Trichur, seen here, was planned by Dr. A. E. Medlycott in 1896 though construction of the building was started by Rt. Rev. John Menacherry in 1900. In Medlycott's own words, "... .. plans were prepared to house the above college in a handsome structure. This was the condition of things when the Bishop went to Europe on sick leave" in 1896 (See *Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. XIV, New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1912, p. 688).

The Eleventh Medlycott Lecture

Trans-Arabian Sea Trade and Religious Interaction between the Mediterranean and India (from the 1st to the 18th Century)

by

Prof. István Perczel

at 01 . 30 p. m.

on

31 January, 2018



Department of History
ST. THOMAS' COLLEGE
TRICHUR



Trichur
23-01-2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are happy to invite you to the Eleventh Annual Lecture in honour of Rt. Rev. Adolphus Edwin Medlycott PhD, who is the founder of the St. Thomas' College, Trichur as an educational institution in 1889, and was himself a historian of international repute. The central objective of the Medlycott Lecture is twofold: 1) to commemorate the founder-historian of the St. Thomas' College, whose *magnum opus* titled *India and the Apostle Thomas* (London: David Nutt, 1905) laid the foundation of modern scholarship on the history of the Syrian Christian community a century ago, and 2) to participate and intervene in the ongoing scholarly debates on problems of Indian historical researches and cultural studies along with historians and scholars of repute. The Medlycott Foundation at the St. Thomas' College, Trichur, elects a reputed scholar as Medlycott Fellow for the ensuing year and he/she will be invited to deliver the Medlycott Lecture for that year on a chosen theme of his/her specialization as well as of contemporary relevance to historical conceptualization, cultural and environmental studies and issues of socio-economic relevance with emphasis on the interface between History and Society, Science and Religion, and Art and Literature.

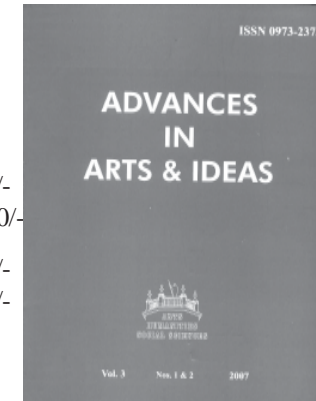
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Advances in Arts & Ideas (ISSN 0973-2373)

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E-mail: njfrancis@rediffmail.com

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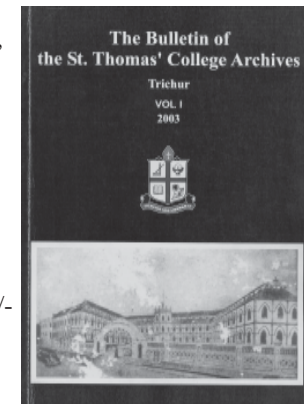
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The Eleventh Medlycott Lecture will be delivered by Prof. István Perczel, Dept. of Medieval Studies Central European University, Budapest, who is a leading medievalist, with specialization in the historical studies of the religious, philosophical and theological developments in Late Ancient and medieval Europe as well as of Asia.

In the present lecture, Prof. István Perczel will concentrate on the Trans-Arabian Sea Trade and Religious Interaction between the Mediterranean regions and India from the 1st to the 18th century C.E., and show how the long durée trade, cultural and religious contacts created an interconnected world, in which we cannot speak about isolated civilizations.

You are cordially invited to attend the Lecture and to depute other delegates to the same. Looking forward to the pleasure of receiving you on 31th January, 2018.

With regards,



Dr. N. J. Francis

 9446866896



Dr. George Alex

 9895234609

Mrs. Dalia Varghese

 8714819828

A Résumé of Dr. István Perczel, Eleventh Medlycott Fellow

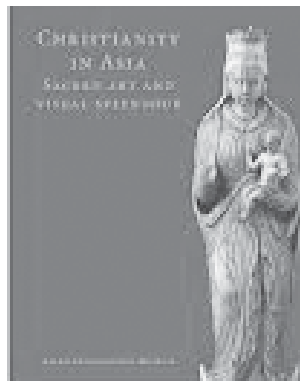
István Perczel is Professor of Byzantine and Eastern Christian Studies in the Department of Medieval Studies at Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, and has extensively worked on Late Antique philosophy, theology and history. He has been specialising in the history of the movements of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic trading and religious groups of West Asian and the Byzantine World in the Indian Ocean world during the medieval period.



He was Visiting Fellow, Dumbarton Oaks; Stanley B. Seeger Visiting Research Fellow, Program of Hellenic Studies, Princeton University, USA; Fellow, Institute of Advanced Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and Research Fellow, Centre for Religious Studies (CERES), Ruhr-Universität Bochum. Perczel is also the co-

founder, Centre for Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Central European University, Budapest, and Visiting Professor, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. He held visiting assignments, also, in the University of Oxford.

His publications include *The Nomocanon of Metropolitan Abdisho of Nisibis* (2009); *The Hymns of Divine Loves of Symeon the New Theologian* (in Hungarian: 2010); a co-edited volume, *Christianity in Asia: Sacred Art and Visual Splendour* (2016); a series of studies on late antique and Byzantine philosophy, theology, on Indian Christianity and the Indian manuscript collections, including 'Classical Syriac as a Modern lingua franca in South India between 1600 and 2006' (2009); and 'Garshuni Malayalam: A Witness to an Early Stage of Indian Christian Literature' (2014).



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The Sixth Medlycott Lecture: **Prof. Rajan Gurukkal**, on 11th February, 2010 on ‘**The Social Formation Perspective: Exemplification through Early South Indian History**’

The Seventh Medlycott Lecture: **Prof. P.K.Michael Tharakan**, on 7th March, 2011 on ‘**Linkages in Space and Time: A Perspective on International and Inter-regional Trade of Keralam**’



The Eighth Medlycott Lecture was delivered by **Prof. Pius Malekandathil**, on 29th March, 2012, on ‘**Maritime Circuits, Wheels of Inland Trade and Political Economy of Kerala, 1500-1800 AD**’

The Ninth Medlycott Lecture: **Dr. George Michell**, on 11 March, 2014 on ‘**Vijayanagara: The City of Victory--New Research and Interpretations**’

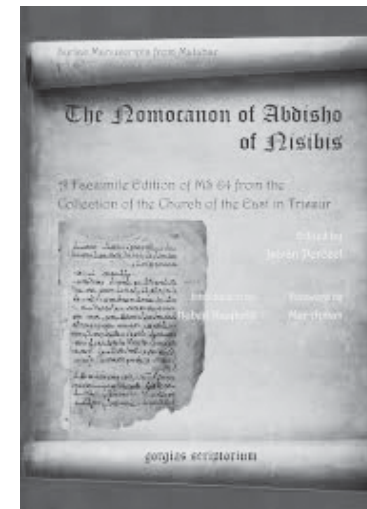


The Tenth Medlycott Lecture: **Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy**, on 30 March, 2015 on **Crafts and Craftsmen in Medieval Peninsular India: An Overview.**

In 2000, Perczel initiated the digitization and cataloguing of the manuscript collections of the Syrian Christians of Kerala. The project has created digital archives of over 1,200 Syriac, Garshuni and Malayalam paper manuscripts and 60,000 palm-leaf manuscripts as also the documentation of architectural monuments, artworks, and inscriptions.

The 11th Medlycott Lecture by Dr. Istvan Perczel titled ‘Trans-Arabian Sea trade and religious interaction between the Mediterranean and India (from the first to the eighteenth century)’ will consist of three parts:

First, he would present some first-century documents, such as the Tabula Peutingeriana and the Musiris Papyrus—both kept in the Library of Vienna, Austria—about the volume and the importance of trans-Arabian Sea trade, connected to the Musiris-Pattanam excavations. He will show that the Roman Empire was not economically self-reliant and depended from this trade network to an extent unacknowledged by most of scholarship. Secondly, he would present the Jewish-Christian wars of the 6th century AD in South Arabia and Ethiopia, and propose that these wars, just like the later rise of early Islam in South Arabia, are to be interpreted in the context of the aforementioned trade network. Thirdly, he would speak about the role of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim merchants in Kerala, focusing on the Kollam copper plates and the role of the Ancuvannam trade guild, proposing that the close trade relations between the three communities continued up to the modern age. For illustrating the latter claim, he will show newly found Syriac and Malayalam documents about the mission sent by Thomas Paramakkal and Thachil Mattu Tharakan to Patriarch Yohannan Hormizd in 1796.



Programme

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Time: 01. 30 p.m.

Date: 31 January, 2018

Venue: Menacherry Hall

St. Thomas' College, Trichur

Prayer

Welcome

Dr. Jenson P. O.

Principal, St. Thomas' College, Trichur

Presidential Address

His Excellency Mar Tony Neelankavil

Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Thrissur, and Manager, St. Thomas' College, Trichur

Inaugural Address

His Grace Mar Aprem

Metropolitan Archbishop
Chaldean Church of the East, Thrissur

Eleventh Medlycott Lecture

***Trans-Arabian Sea Trade and
Religious Interaction
between the Mediterranean and
India (from the 1st to the 18th Century)***

by

Prof. István Perczel

Dept. of Medieval Studies
Central European University, Budapest

Discussion

Vote of Thanks

Dr. George Alex

Associate Professor & Head,
Department of History
St. Thomas' College, Trichur

Previous Medlycott Lectures

The First Medlycott Lecture: **Dr. M. R. Raghava Varier**, on 20th January, 2005 on
“Rethinking *Manipravala*: Decolonising
the Literary Movement.”



The Second Medlycott Lecture: **Prof. R. Champakalakshmi**, on 9th March, 2006 on
“The Making of a New Religious
Tradition in Pre-Modern South India:
The Great Synthesis of the Sanskrit
and Vernacular.”

The Third Medlycott Lecture: **Prof. M.G.S. Narayanan**, on 2nd March, 2007 on
“Migrations and the Making of Indian
Culture: A Case Study of Early South
India.”



The Fourth Medlycott Lecture: **Prof. Bettina Bäumer**, on 26th March, 2008 on
“Trika Saivism of Kashmir and
Christian Spirituality: Openings for a
Dialogue.”

The Fifth Medlycott Lecture: **Prof. Kesavan Veluthat**, on 10th March, 2009 on ‘Imagining a Region: Kerala in Medieval Literature and Historiography’

